Claims

What is claimed is:

1. In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network with user access via a plurality of data processor controlled interactive receiving display stations for displaying received Web documents accessible from database sources on the Web, a system for reducing an excessive number of hits in a search result received at one of the receiving display stations comprising:

means for displaying at said receiving display stations, Web documents received from said sources;

means for conducting keyword searches on the Web;

means associated with said receiving display stations for displaying the number of Web documents hit by said keyword searches;

means, responsive to an excessive number of Web document hits, for enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches with a count of the number of hits for each domain; and

means enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains to thereby reduce the excess number of hits in said search.

2. The Web communication network of claim 1 further including means, subsequent to the elimination of selected domains, for reconducting said keyword search with said excessive number of hits.

3. The Web communication network of claim 2 wherein:

said means for enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches enables the display of a hierarchy of several domain levels with a count of the number of hits for each domain in each domain level; and

said means enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains enables the user to eliminate selected domains in each domain level.

4. The Web communication network of claim 1 further including means for storing, in association with said receiving display station, a search context including said eliminated selected domains whereby said selected domains may be eliminated from subsequent searches.

5. The Web communication network of claim 4 further including means for conducting a subsequent search on the Web with said stored search context but with keywords different from the keywords in the original Web search.

6. The Web communication network of claim 4 further including a Web browser associated with a receiving display station and including:

said means for displaying at said receiving display stations, Web documents received from said sources;

said means for conducting keyword searches on the Web;

said means associated with said receiving display stations for displaying the number of Web documents hit by said keyword searches;

said means, responsive to an excessive number of Web document hits, for enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches with a count of the number of hits for each domain;

said means enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains to thereby reduce the excess number of hits in said search; and

said means for storing a search context including said eliminated selected domains whereby said selected domains may be eliminated from subsequent searches.

7. The Web communication network of claim 4 further including a Web server for connecting said receiving display station to the Web; and said means for storing a search context including said eliminated selected domains is operatively associated with said Web server.

8. In a Web communication network with user access via a plurality of data processor controlled interactive receiving display stations for displaying received Web documents accessible from database sources on the Web, a method for reducing an excessive number of hits in a search result received at one of the receiving display stations comprising:

displaying at said receiving display stations, Web documents received from said sources;

conducting keyword searches on the Web;

displaying at said receiving display stations the number of Web documents hit by said keyword searches;

responsive to an excessive number of Web document hits, enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches with a count of the number of hits for each domain; and

enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains to thereby reduce the excess number of hits in said search.

9. The method of claim 8 further including the step of reconducting said keyword search with said excessive number of hits subsequent to the elimination of selected domains.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein:

said step of enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches enables the display of a hierarchy of several domain levels with a count of the number of hits for each domain in each domain level; and

said step of enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains enables the user to eliminate selected domains in each domain level.

11. The method of claim 8 further including the step of storing, in association with said receiving display station, a search context including said eliminated selected domains whereby said selected domains may be eliminated from subsequent searches.

12. The method of claim 11 further including the step of conducting a subsequent search on the Web with said stored search context but with keywords different from the keywords in the original Web search.

13. The method of claim 11 further including a Web browsing process at said receiving display station including said steps of:

displaying at said receiving display stations, Web documents received from said sources;

conducting keyword searches on the Web;

displaying at said receiving display stations, the number of Web documents hit by said keyword searches;

enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches with a count of the number of hits for each domain;

enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains to thereby reduce the excess number of hits in said search; and

storing a search context including said eliminated selected domains whereby said selected domains may be eliminated from subsequent searches.

14. The method of claim 11 further including the step of storing a search context including said eliminated selected domains in association with a Web server for connecting the receiving display station to the Web.

15. A computer program having code recorded on a computer readable medium for reducing an excessive number of hits in a search result received at one of the receiving display stations in a Web communication network with user access via a plurality of data processor controlled interactive receiving display stations for displaying received Web documents accessible from database sources on the Web, said computer program comprising:

means for displaying at said receiving display stations, Web documents received from said sources;

means for conducting keyword searches on the Web;

means associated with said receiving display stations for displaying the number of Web documents hit by said keyword searches;

means, responsive to an excessive number of Web document hits, for enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches with a count of the number of hits for each domain; and

means enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains to thereby reduce the excess number of hits in said search.

16. The computer program of claim 15 further including means, subsequent to the elimination of selected domains, for reconducting said keyword search with said excessive number of hits.

17. The computer program of claim 16 wherein:

said means for enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches enable the display of a hierarchy of several domain levels with a count of the number of hits for each domain in each domain level; and

said means enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains enables the user to eliminate selected domains in each domain level.

18. The computer program of claim 15 further including means for storing, in association with said receiving display station, a search context including said eliminated selected domains whereby said selected domains may be eliminated from subsequent searches.

19. The computer program of claim 18 further including means for conducting a subsequent search on the Web with said stored search context but with keywords different from the keywords in the original Web search.

20. The computer program of claim 18 further including a Web browser program at a receiving display station and including:

said means for displaying at said receiving display stations, Web documents received from said sources;

said means for conducting keyword searches on the Web;

said means associated with said receiving display stations for displaying the number of Web documents hit by said keyword searches;

said means, responsive to an excessive number of Web document hits, for enabling a user to display a hierarchical level of the domains of the Web documents hit by said searches with a count of the number of hits for each domain;

said means enabling the user to interactively eliminate selected domains to thereby reduce the excess number of hits in said search; and

said means for storing a search context including said eliminated selected domains whereby said selected domains may be eliminated from subsequent searches.